

**AGENDA ITEM V A**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAM**

**LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NANOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING**

## **AGENDA ITEM V A**

### **PROGRESS REPORT ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAM**

#### **LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY**

#### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NANOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING**

##### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

At its meeting in February 2005, the Board of Regents acted as follows:

**Conditional approval is granted for the proposed B.S. in Nanosystems Engineering (CIP 14.9999) at Louisiana Tech University to be implemented beginning Fall 2005. By September 1, 2006, and annually thereafter until ABET accreditation has been accomplished, the institution shall submit to the Commissioner of Higher Education a report documenting efforts to secure external funding for the program.**

##### **STAFF SUMMARY**

The institution reports that the bachelor's program in Nanosystems Engineering has made excellent progress since its inception. Twelve students are currently enrolled in the program, which should produce its first graduates in May 2007. In response to recent recruiting efforts, the enrollment is expected to grow. Additionally, a 2006 national survey by *Small Times* magazine ranked LA Tech third in the nation in micro-nanotechnology education and fifteenth overall in universities involved in micro-nanotechnology research and education in the United States.

During the program's first year of implementation, five grants worth \$1.8 million were awarded by the National Science Foundation and the Louisiana Board of Regents for acquisition of equipment, development of courses, and other means of enhancing the program. Three other grants requesting \$1.6 million were also submitted but not funded. Five faculty received funding as principal investigators; three additional faculty submitted grants as principal investigators.

Additionally, an Amray 1320 Scanning Electron Microscope with Energy Dispersive X-ray analysis capability was donated to support the undergraduate laboratory.

##### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

The College of Engineering faculty associated with the undergraduate program in Nanosystems Engineering at LA Tech has been extremely successful in acquiring support for the program during its first year of implementation. The institution is to be complimented on the levels and sources of funding, which indicate endorsement of a quality program.

The NSE program will not be eligible for accreditation by ABET until it has graduated its first students. The University intended to seek NSE review in conjunction with ABET's assessment of another program in the Fall of 2008.

Program development is commendable. Additional reports prior to receipt of an accreditation decision by ABET are not necessary.

#### ***STAFF RECOMMENDATION***

***The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee accept the AY 2005-06 report relative to the implementation of the Bachelor of Science in Nanosystems Engineering at Louisiana Tech University. The next progress report shall be due to the Commissioner of Higher Education when a decision regarding the program's accreditation status has been received from ABET.***